New Method to fight brain cancer

1124. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the scientists in Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, found a new method to fight brain cancer;

(b) if so the details thereof;

(c) which are the twenty genes that have been identified by the scientist at the IISc to fight brain cancer;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the scientists are thinking of developing a DNA chip to predict the progression of brain cancer in a patient; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research has informed that as per a recent publication from Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, expression of several thousand genes in tissue samples of brain cancer were studied. The investigators have informed that using microarray expressions and other valid techniques they have identified 67 genes including obteonectin, vimentin, seemaphorin 4D, B2 microglobulin, HES, jagged 1 etc.

(d) and (e) Research for newer ways of treatment and remediation of cancer diseases including brain cancer is an ongoing process. Current level of research is insufficient to predict the possibility of developing a DNA chip for the purpose of predicting progression of brain cancer in a patient.

Filaria Eradication Programme

1125. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether government have observed the National Filaria Day on the 11th November, 2005;

(b) if so, the programmes launched at national level for control and eradication of filaria;

(c) the approximate number of people suffering from filaria in various parts of the country at present and the reasons for the spread of this disease;

(d) the measures taken by Government for ensuring their effective treatment;

(e) whether Government have identified filariasis affected areas in the country; and

(f) if so, the special measures taken to make these areas filariasis free?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Filaria Day with Mass Drug Administration (MDA) of single dose of Diethylcarbamazine citrate (DEC) tablets has been launched on 11th November, 2005 at Hyderabad by Hon'ble Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Hon'ble Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India and Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.

MDA was observed by Filaria endemic States/UTs on 11th November, 2005 in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and the UTs of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar haveli and 2 regions of Pondicherry.

(c) As per reports received from filaria endemic States/UTs, there are 585604 filaria cases on record with disease manifestation like Lymphodema & hydrocele.

Lymphatic filariasis is transmitted through mosquito bites. The microfilariae enter the body of a mosquito when it feeds on the blood of a person carrying microfilariae in their blood (mf carriers). It takes 8-21 days for the microfilariae to develop inside the body of the mosquito, when it is matured and can be transmitted to others in the community.

(d) to (f) Government of India has identified about 250 districts as endemic for filariasis in the country.

Special measures are being taken in these districts to contain the filariasis which include:

- Annual Mass Drug Administration (MDA) of single dose of DEC (Diethylcarbamazine citrate) for 5 years or more to the eligible population to interrupt transmission of the disease.

- Home based management of lymphoedema cases and up-scaling of hydrocele operations in identified CHCs/Distt hospitals/medical colleges.

- Capacity building of health care workers for home-based management of Lymphatic filariasis cases.

Shortage of Nurses in Hospitals

1126. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to acute shortage of qualified trained nurses, the health servcies have been badly affected in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how Government propose to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) According to the information available, there is no shortage of trained nurses in the country. So far 8.65 lakh nurses have been registered with various State Nursing Councils in India. As per an estimate, about 30,000 Nurses qualify every year. Although there is no shortage of trained nurses in the country, Government has taken several steps to further augmentation of the availability of trained nurses. These include up gradation of Schools of Nursing and Colleges of Nursing, establishment of New Nursing Colleges, financial assistance to strengthen schools and colleges of nursing, organizing continuing education programme for nursing personnel to upgrade their knowledge and skills etc. An allocation of Rs 100 crores has been done in the Tenth Five Year Plan for Development of Nursing Services in India.

UNDP report on infant mortality

1127. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:
SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent UNDP's human development report on increasing high infant and maternal mortality rates in the country, particularly in Maharashtra State;